

GOING TO THE POST OFFICE WITH MY SON

we do it six times a week
he really likes it
yells flag flag flag
when we get there
runs right on in
while i open the box & dig it out
he climbs up the stairs
to all those unvisited offices
the ag extension board
the draft board
on the second floor
sits at the top & waits
for me to ascend & open
there's lots of books & mags in there
there's lots of submissions in there
there are two checks that total \$3.50 in there
there is one acceptance in there
there are five rejection slips in there
& while i read through them he says hi
to everyone underneath passing by
& then we come down
hand in hand
headed home
for the sunday layover

DEAD DOG

it was a bitch
putting her down
the ground frozen
hard & full of rocks
two weeks later it's christmas
& i get call of the wild
after shave
in a bottle
shaped like a dog
thank you i say
thinking about how many times we say that
about how many times we're given
what we don't really want
& about how many times
we say thank you for it
like when a cop gives you a ticket